GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3161
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2000
EXPULSION OF DIPLOMATS
M.V.CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY;PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL;RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA;RAMDAS ATHAWALE;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated February 18, 2000 under captioned `3 Pak Officials expelled for spying`;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Government has recently expelled Pakistan`s diplomats and the Pakistan has also expelled Indian diplomats there in retaliation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the staff members of Indian mission in Islamabad were mentally and physically tortured;

(e) if so, whether the Indian Government have lodged any protest with the Pakistan Government and International community have also condemned the attitude of Pakistan in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof; and the response of Pakistan Government?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) On 18.2.2000, Pakistan was asked to withdraw Mr. Mohammad Khalil, Mr. Rana Mohammad Saghir and Mr. Muhammad Amin, staff members at Pakistan High Commission, New Delhi by 25.2.2000 as they were found to be indulging in activities incompatible with their official status. These officials left India within the stipulated time period. In retaliation and on false and baseless allegations, Pakistan sought the withdrawal of S/Shri Gopal Chander Roy, Asit Baran Das and R. Sankaranarayanan, staff members at Indian High Commission in Islamabad by 27.2.2000. These officials have returned to India.

(d) to (f) There have been incidents in the past of abduction, unlawful detention, assault, intimidation and harassment of officials of our Mission in Islamabad. On these occasions, Government have strongly condemned these incidents and asked Pakistan to abide by the provisions of the bilateral Code of Conduct and international conventions relating to treatment of Mission personnel. Government has reminded Pakistan of its obligations to ensure the safety and security of our Mission personnel in Islamabad. It is regrettable that Pakistan does not adhere to the Vienna Convention and the Bilateral Code of Conduct for treatment of diplomatic/consular personnel.